Docket No.: 21776-00046-US1

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Michio Endo, et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

(Div. of 09/471,181)

Art Unit: 1742

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: G. Wyszomierski

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

MANUFACTURING MINUTES METALIC

SPHERE

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.